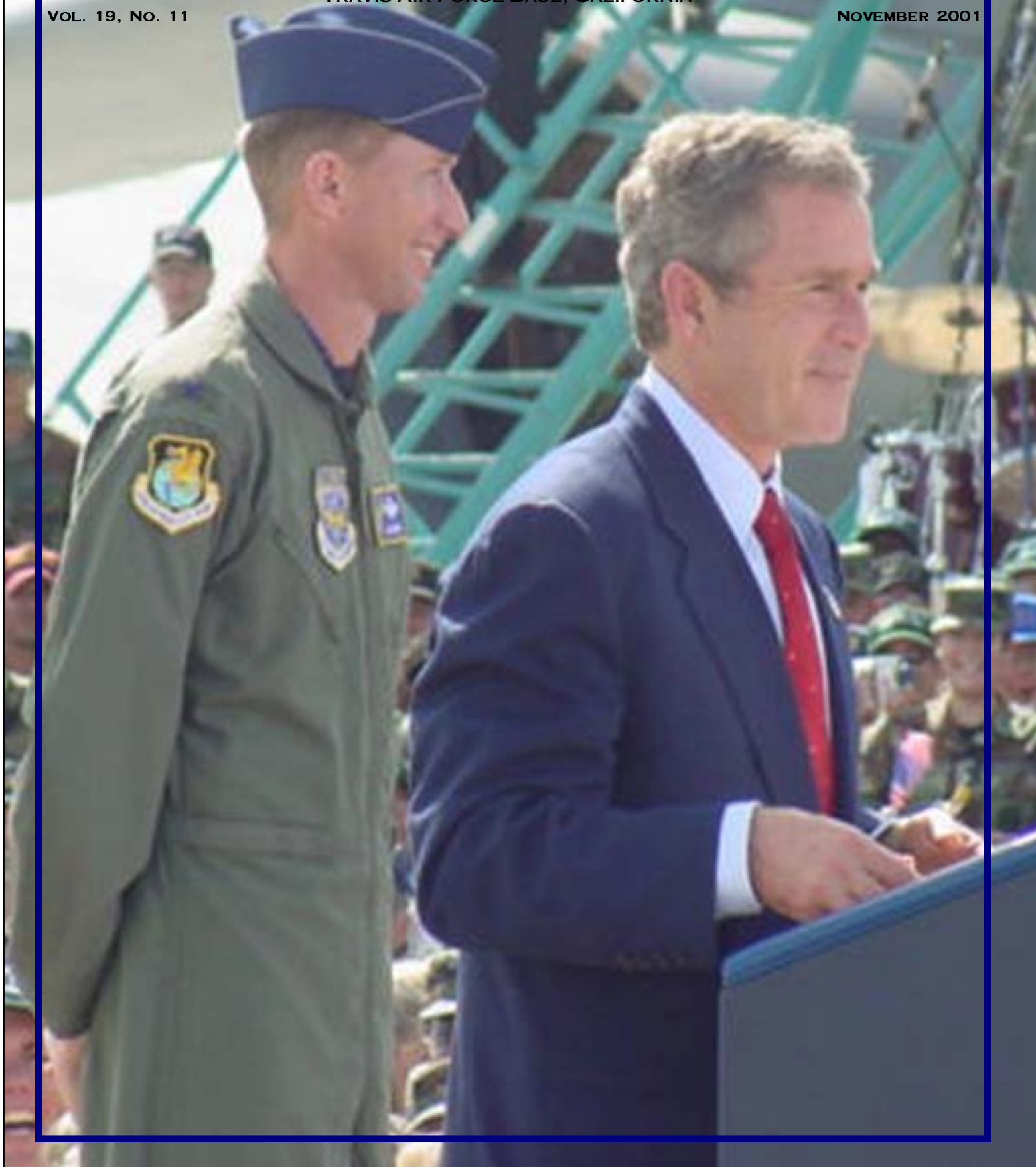


CONTACT

MAGAZINE FOR AND ABOUT MEMBERS OF THE 349TH AIR MOBILITY WING
TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA

VOL. 19, No. 11

NOVEMBER 2001



October proved to be a busy month for Wing

Welcome to the November UTA! To say that the month of October was busy is an understatement! First and foremost was a number of mobilizations that are probably not over yet.

To date we have mobilized 259 of our members including members from the 349th SFS, OSF, OG AGS, CRS, EMS, CSS, CES and AES. To date we have had absolutely zero no-shows. Every member showed up within 24 hours ready to go.

I don't need to tell you how impressed everyone was with your response and how much Team Travis needs your support. From the front gate to the flight line to the fire fighters, you're likely to run into dedicated men and women from the 349th AMW who have answered the call!

The mobilization went very smoothly thanks to the hard work of the MPF. Particularly noteworthy was the hard work of **Master Sgts. Nelson Bonilla and Janet Perry, Tech Sgts. Juan Cruz, Carmen Hunt, Dahlia Topete, Denise Okuma, Staff Sgt. Danny Tam and Mr. Harvey Davis.** Thanks for all your great support!

All this doesn't even include the people who are putting in huge numbers of days of voluntary support. At last count, that number was 11,182 and rising. Our aircrews have been especially productive, hauling 1,984 pax and 3,094.5 tons of cargo since the Sept. 11 attack.

In fact, those figures will be much higher when we receive the reports from several of our KC-10 crews that are forward deployed to classified locations. We have supported OPERATIONS ENDURING FREEDOM, NOBLE EAGLE, BRIGHT STAR and SOUTHERN WATCH as well as PHOENIX BANNER, SAMS and both Pacific and Atlantic Expresses and channels. Truly a superb effort, on time, accident free and all in a volunteer status!

With so many folks mobilized, it's a good time to highlight the importance of the Family Readiness section.

The Family Readiness section is your link to all the services offered on the base. If you are encountering any kind of difficulties as a result of your mobilization or just want to find out what's available, give them a call at 424-1616. **Mr. Jack**

Watts or any of his great folks, **Tech. Sgts. Mary Johnson, Al Bedford, Mike Amaro and Miss Tishira Metcalfe** will be glad to help!

Besides mobilizations, the other "big event" we had here in October was a visit from President Bush! Many of you may have seen the coverage on your local television stations because we certainly got a lot of publicity. The President was on his way to China when he stopped in here to refuel, address local business leaders in Sacramento and rally the troops of Team Travis. If you didn't hear about it in time to attend, I apologize. We were prohibited from advertising the visit for security reasons until about five days before the event.

When he arrived here on Air Force 1, I was part of a receiving line along with **Chief Master Sgt. Dan Gehm** from EMS and we welcomed him on behalf of all our citizen airmen. As you can tell from the cover of the CONTACT, I also had the privilege of standing on the stage with him during his remarks and looking out over the crowd. What a thrill!

Virtually everyone at Travis was there along with their families and it was most impressive to see such a sea of dedicated, patriotic Americans! President Bush was very moved, I think, and gave a great speech on how important your contributions are to our national security. There were lots of people who contributed mightily to his successful trip but I must give special mention to the Public Affairs section: **Capt. Gaelle Aronson, 1st. Lt. Dawn Young, Senior Master Sgt. Ron Lake, Tech. Sgt. Robin Jackson and Mrs. Patti Holloway.**

As I always like to do, I must mention a couple of our award winners, this time from the Medical Group. Congratulations to **Staff Sgt. Sindy S. Thao**, 349th AMDS, who was selected as the Air Force Reserve Outstanding Airman Assigned to a Non Deployable Medical Unit for 2000! Congratulations also to **Lt. Col. Paul S. Dwan**, 349 MDS, who was selected as the Air Force Reserve Outstanding Officer Assigned to a Deployable Medical Unit for 2000! Well done!



Pass and Review

By Col. James T. Rubeor

A quick word about our UTA shuttle flights. As you may well imagine, there is a tremendous requirement for the KC-10'S capability in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM.

As you can tell by looking at the ramp, most of them are deployed! We do have a few on station and depending on their maintenance status and availability, we are doing everything we can to make them available for our shuttle flights.

In most cases, we don't know if we will have airframes available until the night prior and even then we may lose them right up to the last minute. We have instructed commanders with personnel on the shuttle flights to be as flexible as possible because we value your services and we're doing the best we can to get you here!

As we approach Thanksgiving and the start of the holiday season, we have much to be thankful for. I'm sure all of you have special plans with friends and families and look forward to the season with as much anticipation as I do. I would ask two things of you.

The first is that you celebrate safely. Every season we read of tragedies that could have been avoided with greater safety awareness.

The second is that you keep an eye out for those who withdraw during this season or seem strangely irritable or depressed. It's a strange irony that the holiday season has the highest incidence of suicide attempts. Professionals tell us that such attempts are a plea for help and that suicides can be prevented if we are alert to the signals. If someone you know exhibits these symptoms, contact your commander or first sergeant. Better safe than sorry!

As a reminder, the unsupported UTA for November will be B flight.

See you at the UTA!



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CONTACT

Vol. 19, No. 11

November 2001

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5 Toolkit helps families of deploying members

Service members being called up for active service or those deploying have a new tool kit to help their families, a DoD reserve affairs official said. The Guard and Reserve Family Readiness Programs Toolkit is available as a printed product and also is available on the Internet at www.defenselink.mil/ra/family/toolkit/.

6 COMM receives state-of-the-art equipment

The 349th Communications Squadron recently received a state-of-the-art communications system for deployable units. The Theater Deployable Communication system is designed to replace the legacy communications system that is currently in use.

8 Donations needed for Operation Teddy Bear

Members of the 349th Air Mobility Wing are needed to support "Operation Teddy Bear" this holiday season. This operation brings Christmas cheer to many children at local area elementary schools.

9 FM completes first year as individual unit

The 349th Air Mobility Wing Financial Management Comptroller Reservists Unit completed its first year as an individual unit in June 2001.

10 Commissary offers scholarship

It's back to school time. It's also time for military families with high school seniors and college students to "shop" for funds to pay the cost of higher education. That means it's time to "shop" at the commissary!

On the Cover



Commander in Chief: President George W. Bush visited Travis Air Force Base Oct. 17 with a message not only for the base's men and women in uniform, but for their families, as well. The President spoke of his confidence in America's military men and women. He explained that the U.S. military's real strength lay not in the aircraft weapons systems, but in the men and women who fly them and maintain them and "the people who make the military go." (Photo by Capt. Gaelle Aronson)

Timely, accurate EPRs key to airmens' careers

A large part of preparing and mentoring our people in their careers is ensuring they receive timely and appropriate Enlisted Performance Reports (EPR) and awards and decorations.

EPRs are important because they are the key to the Air Force's evaluation system. The EPR uses performance ratings, which are simply one person's judgment of another's duty performance to officially document the reporting period in their records.

It is vital that everyone in the rating chain understand the importance of the EPR to one's career. This is especially true since Air Force Reserve personnel receive an EPR every two years and the last five EPRs are generally reviewed by boards.

Well-written and timely EPRs are what top-notch units do to for their people. I believe that high award and decoration rates in a unit are also the sign of a healthy organization and reflect an effective team effort.

Because this program directly impacts morale and builds esprit de corps, we must formally recognize our people who have gone "above and beyond" to accomplish the mission. Awards and decorations and the EPR are becoming even more important to our people since several different boards are considering these two areas.

These boards include the Promotion Enhancement Program (PEP), 12

Outstanding Airmen of the Quarter/Year, and NCO and Senior NCO Academy selection boards.

Awards and decorations and the EPR are also considered when applying for special assignments or tours of duty. We must also consider the high degree of competition and the difficulty in making a selection during one of these processes.

Many times the difference between being denied or selected could be one of these elements of the entire package. Therefore, it is imperative our people receive their deserved proper recognition and evaluations to be competitive.

It is also important that all our enlisted people, regardless of rank and position, get appropriate awards and decorations. Yes, our airman and junior NCOs need awards and decorations, but I believe it is just as important for our First Sergeants, Chiefs and other Senior NCOs. We all see too many people deserving a decoration who are receiving their only medal at their retirement.

We must all work together to fix this. It takes time and a lot of effort to complete a good package or write an EPR. However, we have people right here in our wing that will help us.

The OPR for this program is our Military Personnel Flight's Career Enhancement Section. Master Sgt. Eddie Fears and his staff are ready, willing and able to assist



Chief's Counsel

By Command Chief Master Sgt.
Anthony L. Maddux

anyone with questions or concerns with this program.

We must always remember that our people are at the center of all we do. Meeting their needs is not only essential to maintain readiness, it is the right thing to do.



FLIGHT LINE: What would you like to tell President Bush?



MSgt. Robert Cardin
312th AS

"You're doing a great job."



SrA Charles Gau
312th AS

"You're doing a great job. Keep up the good work."



TSgt. Edmundo Fontanilla
55th APS

"You're doing a great job with the situation. Don't forget about us in the military."



Maj. Margaret McFann
349th MAS

"Congratulations on upholding the values of our founding fathers."



TSgt. Alison Dabney
349th AMW

"In light of more and more Reservists being activated, do you support increasing benefits for the Reserve?"

“Tool kit” available for reservists called to active duty, those deploying

Service members being called up for active service or those deploying have a new tool kit to help their families, a DoD reserve affairs official said.

The Guard and Reserve Family Readiness Programs Toolkit is available as a printed product and also is available on the Internet at www.defenselink.mil/ra/family/toolkit/.

“It is a comprehensive set of resources,” said Army Col. James L. Scott II, director of individual and family support policy at DoD’s reserve affairs.

“It’s a set of tools that commanders, members, family members and family program directors or managers and the support group directors of managers can use to assist them in preparing units for the separations that take place during mobilization and deployment.”

President Bush’s Sept. 14 order calling up to 50,000 reservists to active duty means the tools could be a vast help to

deploying service members responding to the terrorist threats, Scott said.

The tool kit is a standardized pre-deployment and mobilization handbook. It is an attempt to standardize information between services and the reserve components so they can all use the same language when they talk about deployment preparations, Scott said.

Some of the items in the kit are family readiness groups, publishing newsletters, crisis intervention, family care plans and so on.

One specific tool is a workbook-type section on family financial management planning. The workbook asks a series of questions and gives service members a series of options.

It also gives helpful hints like making sure all your important financial documents — mortgages, bank accounts, savings bonds — are in safe, fireproof locations and that they are accessible to

another family member or friend.

The kit grew out of the Family Strategic Readiness Plan, Scott said. The plan seeks to ensure that military family care systems, networks and organizations adequately serve reserve component families.

With the tool kit is another helpful Web site, the Guard and Reserve Family Readiness Schedule of Events at www.defenselink.mil/ra/family/toolkit/. It’s a calendar designed to provide places for family readiness training across the services. Those interested can search the calendar for training opportunities near them. Finally, the site also has a Guide to Reserve Family Member Benefits at <http://raweb.osd.mil/publications/handbooks/Benefits.pdf>. This booklet explains what military benefits are available, including medical and dental benefits, commissary and exchange privileges, military pay and allowances and reemployment rights. (AFPS)



Supporting Others: Senior Airman Katrina Harden, 349th Memorial Affairs Squadron, returns from Dover AFB, Del., along with 27 other squadron members on Sept. 28. The members all volunteered to deploy to Dover to assist in the identification of remains from the Pentagon terrorist attack. The remaining 7 squadron members returned home Oct. 3.

(Photo by 1st. Lt. Dawn Young)



Called to active duty: Members from the 349th Civil Engineer Squadron listen as Maj. Heather Capella, 349th Mission Support Squadron commander, talks about the members’ rights and responsibilities of being mobilized. A majority of the squadron were mobilized Oct. 22. The members were mobilized for up to two years in support of Operation Enduring Freedom under the Presidential Selected Reserve Call-up. (Photo by T.C. Perkins)



Off load: The 45th Aerial Port Squadron's Readiness Branch planned a Chemical Attack Response Exercise and a Task Qualification Training exercise for the squadron Oct. 12-14. Squadron members in the background practice donning their chemical protective gear. (Photo by T.C. Perkins)

Communication Squadron receives state-of-the-art deployable equipment



Photo by Ron Lake

New equipment: Col. Jim Rubeor, 349th AMW commander, talks with Lt. Col. Truman Lum, 349th Support Group deputy commander and Maj. Craig Wells, 349th Communications Squadron commander about recently received state-of-the-art communications system.

The 349th Communications Squadron recently received a state-of-the-art communications system for deployable units.

The Theater Deployable Communication system is designed to replace the legacy communications system that is currently in use. This new system allows commanders to access information, both secure and non-secure, have protected video teleconferences and have access to voice messages anywhere in the world.

"TDC Integrated Communications Access Package provides a local and metropolitan area switched communications network for Internet protocol, voice and video data through the use of commercial off-the-shelf circuit switches, hubs, routers and multiplexers" said Chief Master Sgt. Steve Nefzger, 349th CS superintendent. "Two major components provide warfighter flexible, lightweight, modular, scannable and integrated deployable communications."

The key to TDC is the ability to support the communications needs of the joint task force commander throughout all five phases of an operation. Communications personnel maintain the equipment and the package can deploy with a unit to provide message, data, imagery, telephone and inter/intra-theater communications anywhere in the world.



Paying honors: Tech. Sgt. James Coleman III, at the podium, Tech. Sgt. Anne-Marie Scott and Tech. Sgt. Darin Farmon, all members of the Honor Guard perform the flag folding ceremony for the Honor Guard Appreciation Day. The annual event recognizes the achievements of the honor guard members and is a way of saying thanks for all their hard work and dedication. Lunch was served after the ceremony. Many members were presented with an Air Force Achievement Medal. (Photo by T.C. Perkins)

Stop-loss exemptions may be limited in numbers

As the end of the planned 30-day stop-loss evaluation approaches, officials are saying the list of career fields that will be released from stop-loss restrictions, if there is one, will likely not result in many people being allowed to leave the service in the near future.

By early November, the Air Force will decide if there is an opportunity to exempt any career fields, officials said.

When mission requirements can be filled without a need for stop-loss, the Air Force plans to end the program with the maximum amount of flexibility and allow those people a smooth transition out of the Air Force, officials said.

"But we don't know when that's going to be," said Lt. Col. Mike Gamble, Assignment Programs and Procedures Division chief for the Air Force Personnel Center here. "Nobody does."

"Right now, because of the double-tasking of homeland defense and force protection, combined with overseas operations and deployments, there are

relatively few people who aren't involved," Gamble said. "We really need to remember that the unique feature of this operation is the homeland security requirement — something we haven't focused on before. We need to determine the load all these demands is placing on the force, and that is why we are proceeding with caution."

After Air Force officials announced stop-loss in late September, retirements and separations were indefinitely suspended starting Oct. 2.

April 30 and May 1 were listed in some official correspondence for administrative reasons, giving rise to rumors that stop-loss had been extended to one of those dates, officials said.

"There has been no change in the policy, but the April and May dates have made it into the rumor mill," said Lt. Col. Rich Binger, chief of separations here. "The fact is stop-loss continues, and no end dates have been set."

For more information on stop-loss, visit the AFPC home page. (AFNS)

Lefforge takes reigns at 60th

Brig. Gen. Thomas P. Kane turned over command of the 60th Air Mobility Wing to Brig. Gen. (Sel.) David R. Lefforge Sept. 21.

Free child care

Free child care is available to all reservist during their UTA weekend for the month of November. For more information, call Jack Watts, Family Readiness, at (707) 424-1616.

Incentive program

The following Air Force Specialty Codes have been authorized by Air Force Reserve Command for the Enlisted Incentive Program:

TRAVIS AFB

1A0X1	In-Flight Refueling
1A2X1	Aircraft Loadmaster
1N0X1	Intel Applications
2A5X1	Aerospace Maintenance
2A551J	Aerospace Maintenance
2A551L	Aerospace Maintenance
2A6X1A	Aerospace Propulsion
2X6X2	Aerospace Ground Maintenance
2A6X6	Aircraft Electronics and Environmental
2A7X3	Aircraft Metals
2E1X1	Communications and Electronics Systems
2E1X3	Communications and Electronics Systems
2E2X1	Communications and Electronics Systems
2E6X3	Telephone Systems
2T2X1	Air Transportation
3E2X1	Pavement and Construction Equipment
3E3X1	Structural
3E4X1	Utilities Systems
3E4X2	Liquid Fuels System Maintenance
3E8X1	Explosive Ordnance Disposal
3E9X1	Readiness
3P0X1B	Combat Arms
T3P0X1	Security Forces Trainer
4A0X1	Health Services
4A1X1	Medical Materials
4A2X1	Biomedical Equipment
4F0X1	Aeromedical

KIRTLAND AFB

4A2X1	Biomedical Equipment
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For more information call (707) 424-3555.

Operation Teddy Bear needs volunteers

By Tech. Sgt. Robin Jackson

Wing Public Affairs

Members of the 349th Air Mobility Wing are needed to support "Operation Teddy Bear" this holiday season. This operation brings Christmas cheer to many children at local area elementary schools.

The program began as a grass-roots effort 16 years ago organized by Wing civilian employees Cipriano Villanueva and William Ronders.

While discussing Christmas plans with some faculty at Crescent Elementary School, they learned that the holidays would be unfortunate for some of the underprivileged children.

Ronders and Villanueva stepped in, and with assistance from the 349th Air Mobility Wing and donations from the services squadrons on base ensured a joyous holiday season for the children.

They held raffles, bake sales and accepted cash donations to raise money, which they used for the children's Christmas event.

The program, which began at Crescent Elementary School in 1984, was expanded to Bransford Elementary School four years ago.

The expansion coincided with the Wing's formal participation. According to Command Chief Master Sgt. Anthony Maddux, the Wing's Top Three Council annually donates money to the event.



Senior Master Sgt. Pat McReynolds is taking the lead to organize this year's event, which encompasses collecting donations, purchasing Teddy bears and coordinating the delivery dates at the schools.

"Our first meeting in September went very well," said Senior Master Sgt. Pat McReynolds, 349th Air Generation Squadron. "However, we still need volunteers to assist with the operation. It

is a wonderful opportunity to give to the kids."

Last year, "Operation Teddy Bear" volunteers delivered 275 Teddy bears to the local children. This year the goal is to provide 400 Teddy bears. Come be a part of an operation that promotes good will and kindness and see the joy on the faces of the children.

For more information, call McReynolds at (707) 424-0774.

SGLI covers spouse for a fee, children are free

Amount of Insurance	Age of Spouse				
	34 & below	35-44	45-49	50-54	55 & over
\$100,000	\$9.00	\$13.00	\$20.00	\$32.00	\$55.00
\$ 90,000	\$8.10	\$11.70	\$18.00	\$28.80	\$49.50
\$ 80,000	\$7.20	\$10.40	\$16.00	\$25.60	\$44.00
\$ 70,000	\$6.30	\$ 9.10	\$14.00	\$22.40	\$38.50
\$ 60,000	\$5.40	\$ 7.80	\$12.00	\$19.20	\$33.00
\$ 50,000	\$4.50	\$ 6.50	\$10.00	\$16.00	\$27.50
\$ 40,000	\$3.60	\$ 5.20	\$ 8.00	\$12.80	\$22.00
\$ 30,000	\$2.70	\$ 3.90	\$ 6.00	\$ 9.60	\$16.50
\$ 20,000	\$1.80	\$ 2.60	\$ 4.00	\$ 6.40	\$11.00
\$ 10,000	\$0.90	\$ 1.30	\$ 2.00	\$ 3.20	\$ 5.50

Listed are the monthly premiums for coverage for your spouse based on his or her age and amount of coverage.

The Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program was extended to provide coverage to family members. This began Nov. 1.

The maximum automatic coverage is \$100,000 for a member's spouse, and any lesser amount must be evenly divisible by \$10,000. However, the amount of coverage of a member's spouse cannot exceed the amount of coverage of the insuring member. Premiums for spouse coverage will be charged based upon spouse's age and will range from 9 cents to 55 cents per \$1,000 of coverage.

Children will be covered automatically for \$10,000, and no premiums will be charged the member.

FM reaches first milestone as individual unit

**Story and photo by
Tech. Sgt. Robin Jackson**
Wing Public Affairs

The 349th Air Mobility Wing Financial Management Comptroller Reservists Unit completed its first year as an individual unit in June 2001.

The Financial Management mission is to provide financial information to the commanders, managers, and members and meet the requirements of public law.

According to Maj. Irma Jackson-Mason, 349th Financial Management Comptroller Reservist commander, the first year has been filled with challenges and opportunities to aggressively develop and implement a training program. The program incorporated trainers from the 60th Comptroller Squadron, the 349th AMW Reserve Pay Office and the Budget Office.

The purpose of the training as Financial Managers is twofold. First, it is to improve readiness to support deployed operations, and second, to recruit, train, and retrain talented people. The goal of the 349th AMW Comptroller Reservist is to have each personnel trained by 2003 and ready to deploy to any location.

"Our training program is built around hands-on training as in-processing new and transferred members, processing teams of deployed members, and supporting missions worldwide with interactive

Finance systems on-line and any future automated systems," Jackson-Mason said. "During a deployment operation our objective is to have deploying personnel prepared and equipped with individual information regarding pay and entitlement issues prior to entering the Theater."

In addition to training this year the unit was tasked with the responsibility of supporting an AEF rotation. According to Jackson-Mason, in the past 18 months, reservists have been deployed to Kosovo, Jamaica, Moron, Spain and Rhein Main.

Staff Sgt. Carmelita Nix, comptroller reservist, participated in the AEF at Rhein Main AB, Germany in the Spring of 2001.

"While there, Nix was part of the processing team that readied classified personnel in support of Kosovo," said Jackson-Mason. "In addition, she had to know the entitlements for applicable deployed locations, arrange for security police escort if a cashier is needed, or be equip with a military weapon when more than one Financial Manager disbursing agent counts and verifies funds for the cashier and signs for funds."

Prior to becoming a reservist with the 349th AMW, Nix was on active duty at the 60th Comptroller Squadron, Travis Air Force Base and is completely trained as a 5-Level in Financial Management.

"She is an asset to our office," said Jackson-Mason. "Her Professional

Military Education along with her degree in Business Administration has her prepared to handle numerous customer service and entitlement issues and she is able to deploy to any location when called upon."

Effective October 1999 the Accounting and Finance, Budget, and Cost Analysis career fields merged. Today, the career field does not specialize. All members must train as Financial Managers in all relative fields of the Comptroller.

"My 20 years experience includes Cost Analyst, Finance Officer, and Budget Officer," said Jackson-Mason. "Along with the OJT training, the career field now has a Continuing Professional Education component which I feel is a great benefit for us. The CPE will allow both military and civilian Financial Managers to receive professional training that is directly linked to a Professional Development Program."

The Government Accounting Office surveyed the Department of Defense and recommended that much should be done to train, educate and develop Financial Management professionals. At the same time, we are moving to more sophisticated processes and empowering our employees to assume greater responsibility, said Jackson-Mason. We are being challenged to improve financial management in order to provide better information to commanders and to achieve auditable financial statements. To meet these challenges, we need to reemphasize the importance of professional development within our community.

Presently, the office consists of five positions of which all are currently filled. However, the career field is always looking for talented people.

According to Jackson-Mason, she has a great office full of military professionals. They are, Tech. Sgt. Kimberly Williams, Staff Sgt. Ron Sarte, Staff Sgt. Carmelita Nix and Airman First Class Muberra Kibar.

The Financial Management career field is making significant progress toward improving financial management and is prepared to deploy and support units worldwide. As we begin our second year, our mission is to provide financial operations and management of Air Force resources necessary to defend the United States and protect its interests through aerospace power.



Chem Warfare Inspection: Maj. Irma Jackson-Mason (center), 349th Financial Management Comptroller Reservist commander, Staff Sgt. Carmelita Nix (right) and Tech. Sgt. Kimberly Williams, comptroller reservist, perform their chemical gear mask inspection.

Seeing through your Air Force career

Submitted by 349th AMDS

Vision is the most important sense for an Air Force member. All Air Force jobs rely on vision. The Air Force has strict standards for vision.

There is no blanket vision standard that covers all occupations. Because of this medical devices and surgical procedures designed to correct vision are not the same across all eyes and all careers. What follows is the latest information regarding corrective refractive surgery, contact lenses and glasses.

Corrective Refractive Surgery

Radial Keratotomy, Implanted Corneal Stomal Rings, Photorefractive Keratectomy, Laser In-Situ Keratomileusis and Laser Epithelial Keratomileusis are procedures that modify the cornea of the eye to correct vision without the use of contact lenses or glasses.

PRK and LASIK are popular and heavily advertised. According to the latest USAFR Surgeon General Update PRK has been approved for waiver in selected Air Force aviators. However, only active duty pilots are eligible for PRK because the procedure must be performed at Wilford Hall Medical Center and follow-up requirements involve travel.

AFRC aviators are not allowed to obtain PRK at this time. This policy may change as the Air Force opens PRK centers at more bases. Travis is expected to be one of the bases performing PRK in the near future.

For non-flying military personnel PRK and now LASIK are allowed as long as visual standards are still met. The older refractive procedure Radial Keratotomy is still disqualifying for military service. LASEK a modification of the LASIK procedure is not allowed under current policy and is still in the experimental stage.

Reserve component personnel who are not currently in aviation or special duty but are interested in PRK for the purposes of applying for aviation and special duty career fields must visit the optometry clinic and flight surgeon to review and sign a PRK waiver information briefing checklist. PRK and LASIK are not always 100 percent successful with the result of the

correction that may be outside of the vision standards set by the Air Force.

More information about laser refractive surgery can be obtained from the World Wide Web at https://www.afms.mil/aeromed/USAF_PRK.cfm and <http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/lasik>.

Contact Lenses

Contact lenses are used in lieu of glasses to correct vision. Often they offer better vision than that obtained by glasses alone.

However, contact lenses are medical devices that can affect the health of the eye and if used inappropriately can reduce vision. As such contact lenses must be properly fitted and the contact lens wearer must be trained in proper wear and maintenance. Minimally all contact lens wearers should be seen once a year.

No special requirements are necessary for personnel who are not involved in aviation or special operations in order to wear contact lenses.

We advise caution and good sense to guide your use of contact lenses. Poor vision whether it is caused by disease, injury or contact lens abuse can still adversely affect your sight and your career.

The Aircrew Soft Contact Lens Program is a mandatory requirement for aircrew personnel wearing contact lenses. It provides a template for safe and successful contact lens wear. If you are flying class I or II you must be enrolled in the program if you wear contact lenses at anytime (on or off duty). Flying class III must be enrolled if contact lenses are used during flight. If you are flying class III and do not plan to wear the contact lenses while on duty you will need to sign a statement regarding your contact lens status and change your AF Form 1042.

Due to the demands of supporting the 349th AMW mission we are unable to write your contact lens prescription. Your civilian eye care provider will write your contact lens prescription and provide



follow up care. You can visit the optometry clinic at David Grant Medical Center on supported Saturdays (all day) and Sundays (morning only) UTA weekends for more information and enrollment forms.

More information about the ACSCLP can be obtained from the World Wide Web <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/dcpm/vcp/afopnet/ISSUES/Aiaviator.HTM> (yes, the word aviator is misspelled).

Spectacles

Reservists on orders for more than 30 consecutive days for other than training are authorized two pair of glasses. The prescription to order spectacles must be less than two years old. Examination can be obtained from the active duty clinic while on orders.

All personnel on mobility are required to have one pair of gas mask inserts. These can be ordered from a prescription that is less than two years old.

Safety glasses may be ordered for base personnel who work in an eye hazardous area. The member must bring a funding letter signed by their supervisor and resource manager; civilian members must furnish a prescription. Bifocal prescriptions will only be ordered in a traditional bifocal format. No progressive (no-line) bifocals will be ordered.

The new Air Force flight frame is just now beginning to become available. The AFF is matte ebony to reduce reflection in the cockpit, is of higher quality and lasts longer than our current spectacle frames. When its distribution is fully implemented civilian spectacle frames will no longer be allowed in the cockpit.

The USAF Improved Aircrew Spectacle will be ordered through the 349th AMW/Optomtry Services on the supported weekend. The aircrew member will need to come into the clinic to be fitted with the proper frame, bridge and temple size. "One size no longer fits all!"

Questions on eyes and vision should be directed to your flight surgeon or optometrist.

Please stop by the eye clinic at David Grant Medical Center on supported UTAs or call the 349th AMDS at (707) 424-3812. We look forward to help you preserve and improve your vision.

School time again

DECA offers scholarships for children

It's back to school time. It's also time for military families with high school seniors and college students to "shop" for funds to pay the cost of higher education. That means it's time to "shop" at the commissary! Applications for the second annual Defense Commissary Agency/Fisher House Foundation scholarships for Military Children Program will be available beginning Nov. 1 at your local commissary and for download at www.commissaries.com.

"The response from military families to the 2001 program was fantastic," said Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) Director, Air Force Maj. Gen. Robert J. Courter, Jr. "Over 5,000 students applied for the scholarships, and through the generosity of our industry partners nearly 400 scholarships were awarded. We expect double the applications and even

more scholarships in 2002."

Qualified sons and daughters of U.S. military ID card holders, to include active duty, retirees, and Guard/reserves, may apply for the \$1,500 scholarships. Eligibility of applicants, including survivors of deceased members, will be determined using the DoD ID Card Directive. The deadline for filing applications is Feb. 5, 2002.

Two major changes are in store for the 2002 program: Students will not have to show ID at the commissary when turning in their applications and applicants who don't live near a commissary will be able to mail their applications to their closest commissary location.

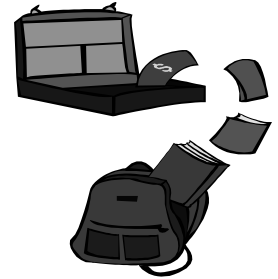
Student eligibility will be verified through the Defense Enrollment and Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) before scholarships are awarded. Sponsors

should ensure that their children are enrolled in DEERS prior to applying for a scholarship.

The Fisher House Foundation is administering the Scholarships for Military Children program through a professional scholarship evaluation company.

Fisher House is known for building and donating fully furnished comfort homes near military medical facilities.

A permanent information page for the Scholarships for Military Children Program has been added to www.commissaries.com. Look for the link under "What's New?"



Defense of Freedom medal unveiled for DOD civilians employees, some contractors

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld announced the creation of the Defense of Freedom medal to honor civilian employees of the Department of Defense injured or killed in the line of duty.

The Defense of Freedom medal will be the civilian equivalent of the military's Purple Heart. The first recipients to be honored will be those Defense Department civilians injured or killed recently as a result of the terrorist attack on the Pentagon.

At the discretion of the Secretary of Defense, the medal may be awarded to non-Defense employees, such as contractors, based on their involvement in Department of Defense activities.

The medal itself consists of a golden circle framing a bald eagle holding a shield which exemplifies the principles of freedom and the defense of those freedoms upon which our nation is founded.

The reverse of the medal is inscribed with "On Behalf of a Grateful Nation" with a space for the recipient's name to be inscribed. The laurel wreath represents



honor and high achievement.

The ribbon is the red, white and blue. The red stripes commemorate valor and sacrifice. The wide blue stripe represents

strength. The white stripes symbolize liberty as represented in our national flag.

The number of red stripes represents the four terrorist attacks using hijacked airplanes and the single blue stripe represents the terrorist attack on the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.

"This medal acknowledges civilian employees of the Department of Defense and other civilians in service to the Department of Defense who are killed or injured while on duty," said

Charles S. Abell, assistant secretary of Defense for Force Management Policy. "It reinforces the total force concept that makes our nation so strong."



82nd APS members reenlist: 349th Air Mobility Wing members assigned to the 82nd Aerial Port Squadron show their support of the country by raising their hands to reenlist in front of the Enlisted Wall, Travis Air Force Base, Sept. 22, 2001. (Center: Vice Commander of the 349th Air Mobility Wing, Colonel Jim Leli; left to right; Master Sgt. Veronica Cadore, Master Sgt. George Lott, Staff Sgts Martin Miller, Clinton Murray and Katrina Brown) (Photo by Master Sgt. Marvin Meek)

WING GAINS 10 NEW LT. COLS., 13 NEW CAPTAINS

Captain

Brian R. Baker, 349th AES
Sarah E. Brooks, 349th AES
Michael S. Butler, 70th ARS
Jennifer J. Earle, 349th SFS
Mark G. Fratrack, 82nd APS
Jeanette L. Hess, 349th AES
David A. Horn, 70th ARS

Teresa A. McDonald, 349th AES
Joseph D. McGowan, 349th MDS
Constance S. Revore, 349th AMDS
Kathryn J. Skinner, 70th ARS
Martin E. Torrey, 349th MDS
Tiffany K. Wadman, 79th ARS

Lieutenant Colonel

Abel Barrientes, 312th AS

Jose E. Blanco, Jr., 79th ARS
David H. Goodhue, 79th ARS
Barry D. Honcoop, Det. 1, 349th MDS
Anthony D. Jones, 55th APS
Milton S. Jordan, Jr., 349th AMW
Paul J. Kammer, 349th MDS
Craig J. Nowicki, 70th ARS
Bruce M. Sayre, 301st AS
Robert E. Stone, 79th ARS

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Contact magazine is printed for reservists like Capt. Sharron Coley, 312th Airlift Squadron.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Pete Briggs